



RIO

Annual Report 2024

Value for and with society

SDU RIO works closely with the academic environments and external partners in **research, education and innovation**

From strategy to value... together for the solutions of the future

SDU is making rapid strides these days. New ventures in Western Denmark, a greater focus on quality and, not least, the University's role in the development of society. All of this makes SDU a key player in fostering groundbreaking research, value-creating graduates, growth and welfare through collaboration and innovation.

- **At RIO, we are clearly feeling the winds of change** in our daily collaboration. Our joint efforts and results are very much a testament to this: the acquisition of external research funding that boosts our research has exceeded our expectations; new national innovation policy funds provide new opportunities and collaboration; SDU's international outlook is improving significantly; businesses and organisations are increasingly being involved in research and education at all campuses; and collaboration with the region and municipalities is increasing. These developments all demonstrate SDU's ambition to achieve more.
- **MedTech Odense is a prime example.** An incredibly exciting task, where RIO, together with OUH, has been assigned a crucial role in establishing, developing and managing the initiative – naturally in collaboration with the academic environments and external partners.
- **RIO's annual report** looks back on a year of high demand. By using selected data, individual highlights are shown in the incredible number of activities that we have succeeded with together and across the board. **And 2025** promises to be another exciting year of development, marked by close interaction and collaboration across research, education and innovation.



We look forward to the continued collaboration across SDU, with the RI Council, the students and our many partners.

Enjoy the report!
Søren E. Frandsen
Head of SDU RIO and MedTech Odense

Reading guide



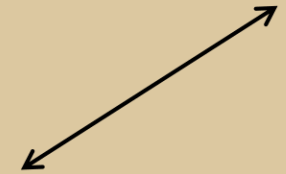
Notes to the dataset
as mouseover



Some dashboards
are clickable

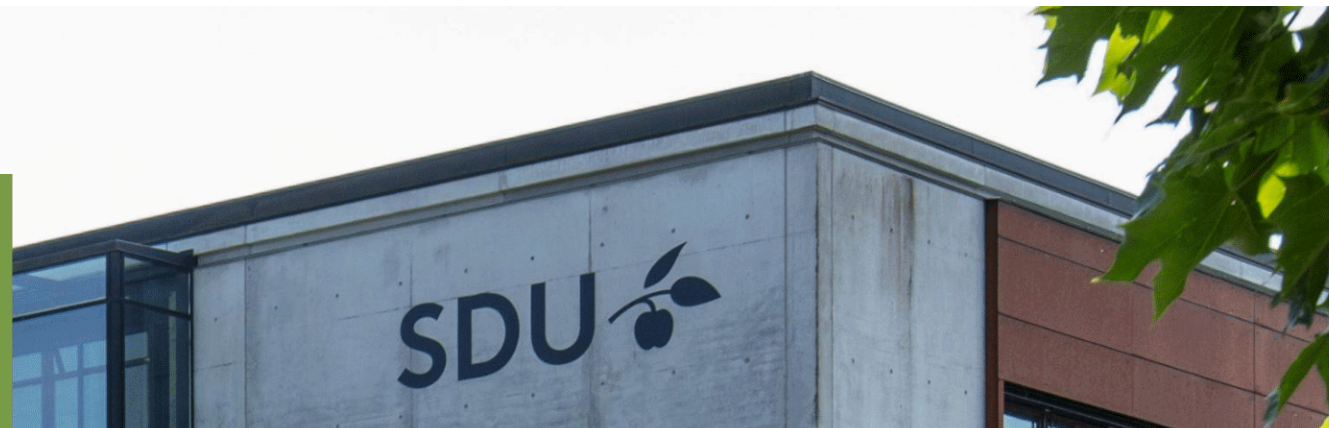


Reports are generally
shown for RIO-
supported/facilitated
activities unless
otherwise stated.



Choose fullscreen
for the best view

Research

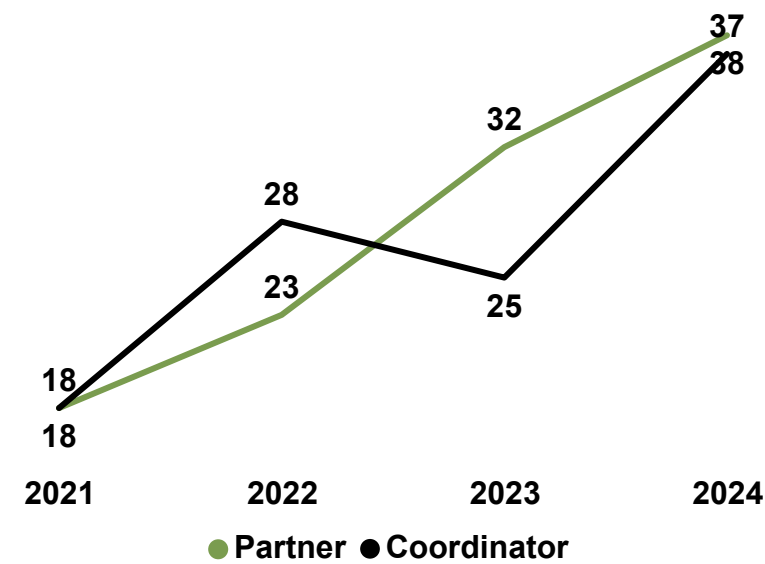


- **EU funding:** In both the policy and pre-award areas, RIO is actively working with the current and next EU framework programme to pave the way for new collaboration and funding opportunities that can strengthen and develop research at SDU.
- **The impressive growth in the acquisition** of external funding helps to strengthen SDU's research quality, researchers' career opportunities and expand SDU's international network and visibility. SDU and our researchers are now reaping the benefits of the ambitions and initiatives in the funding strategy – with potential for more.
- **More researchers and external partners** are brought together. The need and demand for collaboration between research environments, relevant businesses, public institutions and clusters is noticeably increasing. This is evident both in the increasing number of new legal agreements, but also in the concrete research and innovation collaboration, where RIO provides support from the first contact until the joint project is landed and implemented.

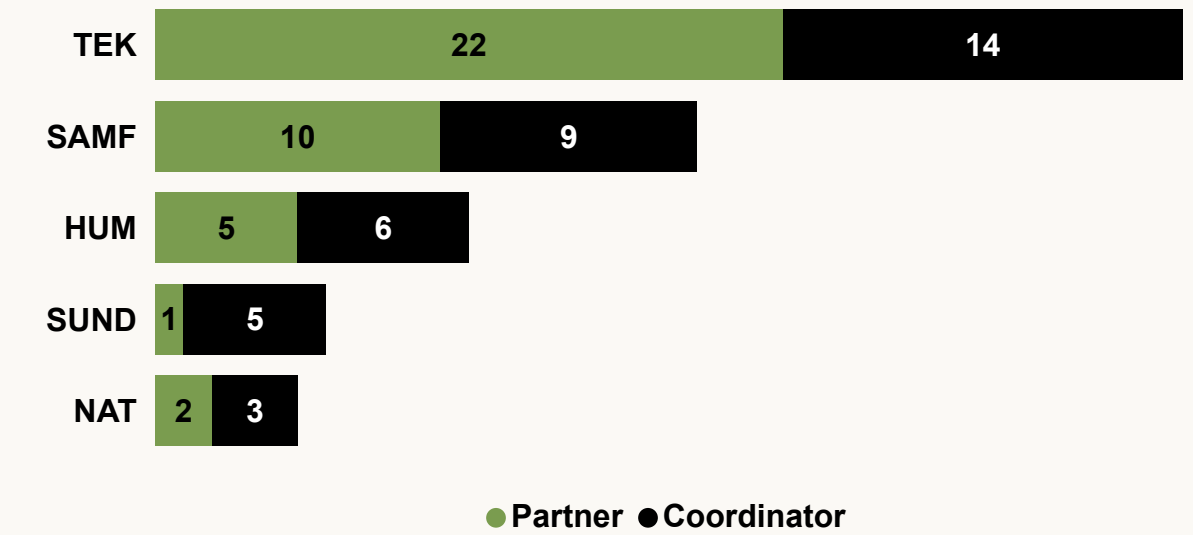
SDU's commitment to Horizon Europe continues to evolve

- Significant increase in project support, especially for coordinator cases.
- New offerings on competence development attracted 195 participants.
- 9% annual growth in consumption of external research funding.

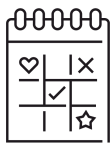
Active RIO support cases



Active RIO support cases by faculty



Facilitated competence development

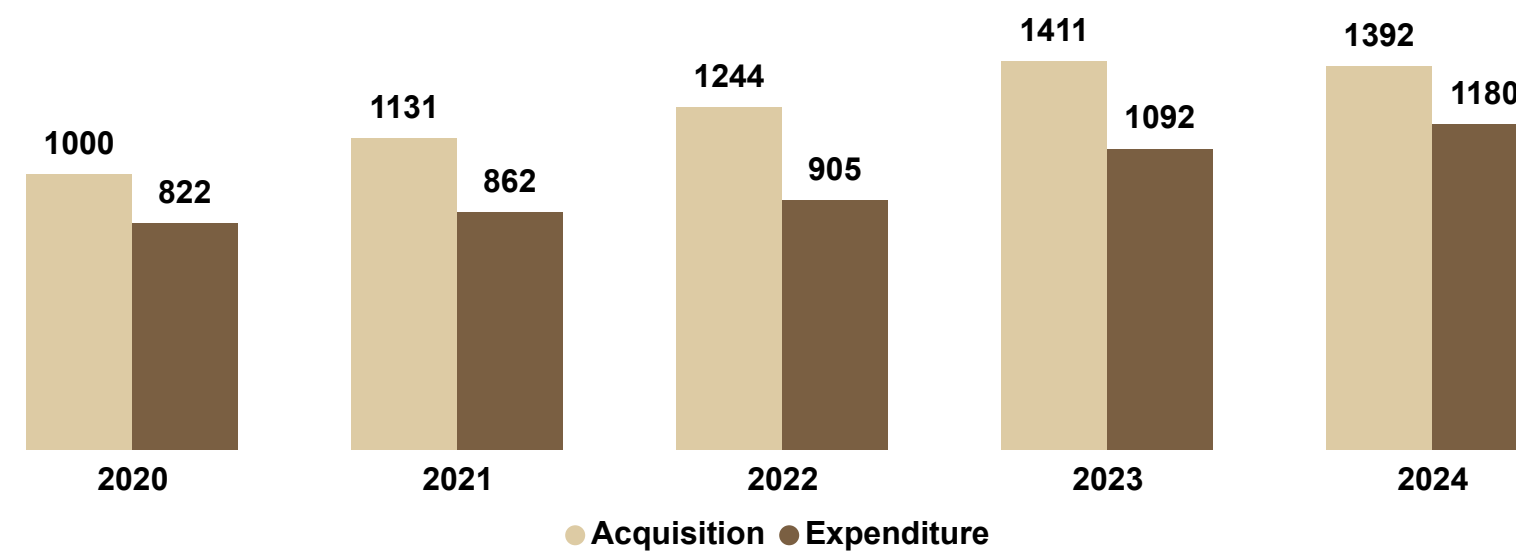
 7 events and workshops with

 195 participants

SDU acquisition and expenditure in millions DKK (fixed prices)

Click to view the distribution of:

- ⇒ Danish private sources
- ⇒ Danish public sources
- ⇒ EU-Commission
- ⇒ Foreign sources



Annual growth in acquisition
(% of 2020 level)

10.7 %

Annual growth in expenditure
(% of 2020 level)

9.0 %

European network and new research funds (Pillar 2, support cases)

Total number

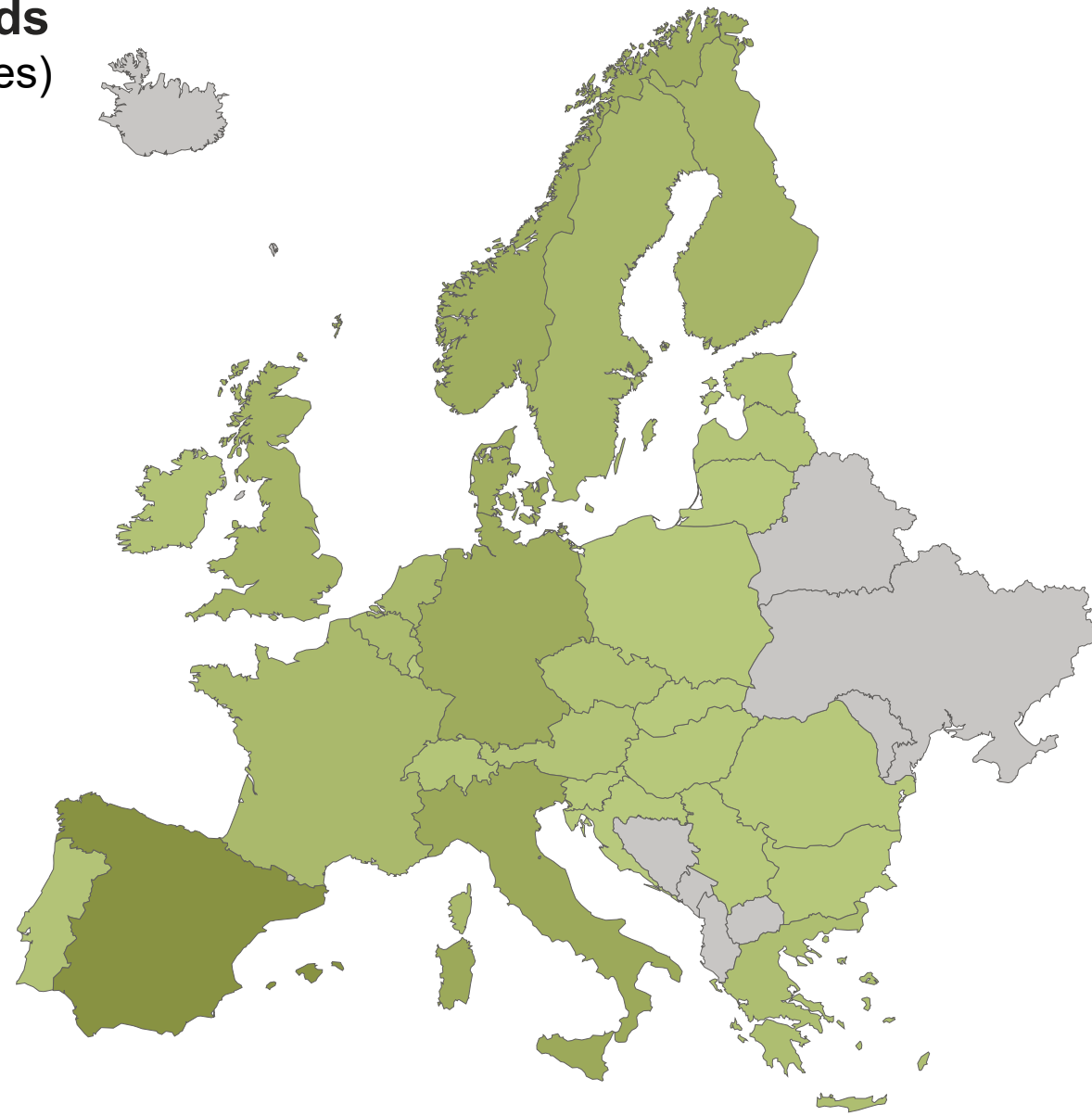
Projects
23

Unique partners
291

Requested grants

SDU's share (DKK m)
90.6

Totale sum (DKK m)
998.7



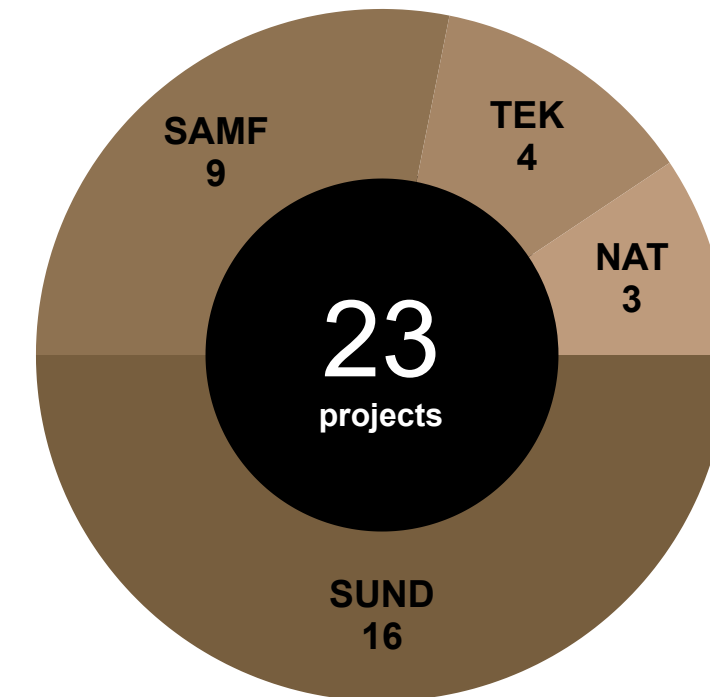
Projects*

- WinWavES
- WASTE-FUN
- VETPREP
- VERNE
- TransMorph
- THRIVE
- SKILLZ
- SGREENPLAY
- ResByDes
- REGENERATE
- NiLAI
- MARMADE
- LIFT
- JADE
- FOLLOW
- FlavourFerm
- EDIT4C
- CRITTER
- BONEVASC
- AthenAI
- APETIT
- ALLIANCE
- 4D VASCOSTEO

*The green-marked projects have SDU as coordinator

Research and practice are brought closer together and promote external collaboration

RIO has served as a bridge builder between SDU and 75 external partners, including companies, municipalities, public institutions and clusters.



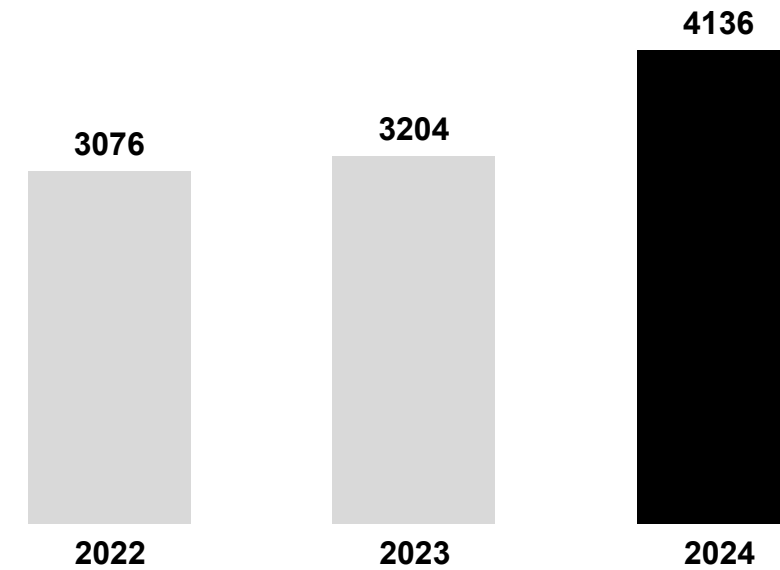
75

Unique external partners involved in the projects, national and international

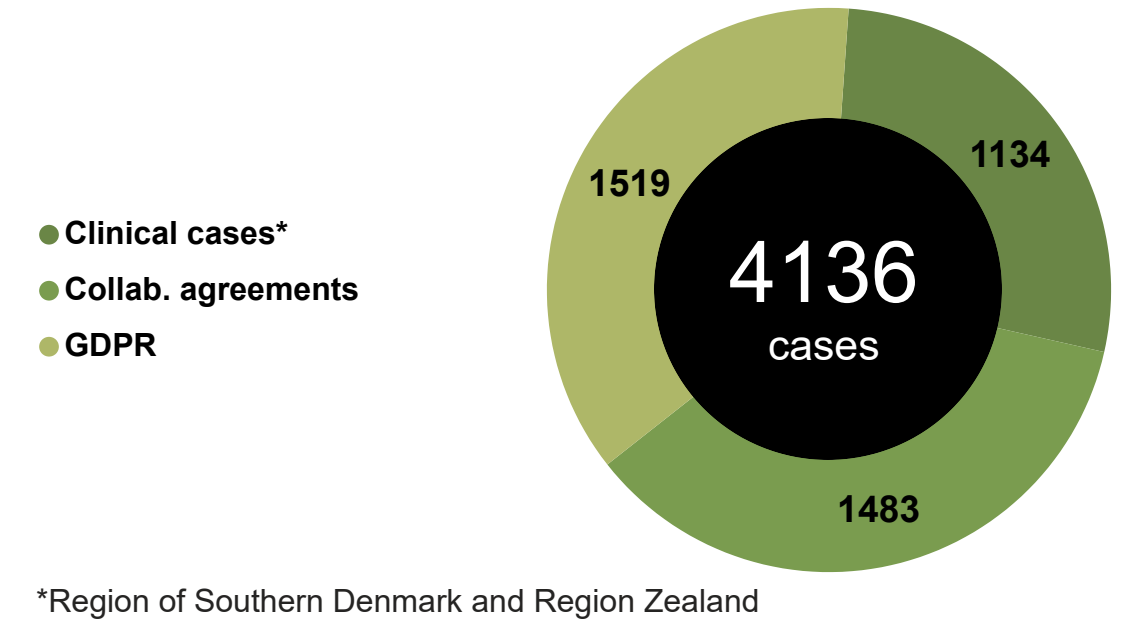
Large growth in legal cases as a result of more research projects and innovation collaborations

- Large increase in clinical cases, GDPR in research and innovation cases and collaboration agreements.
- This year, registering data in WorkZone makes it possible to show the financial scope of the projects and thus the value for SDU.

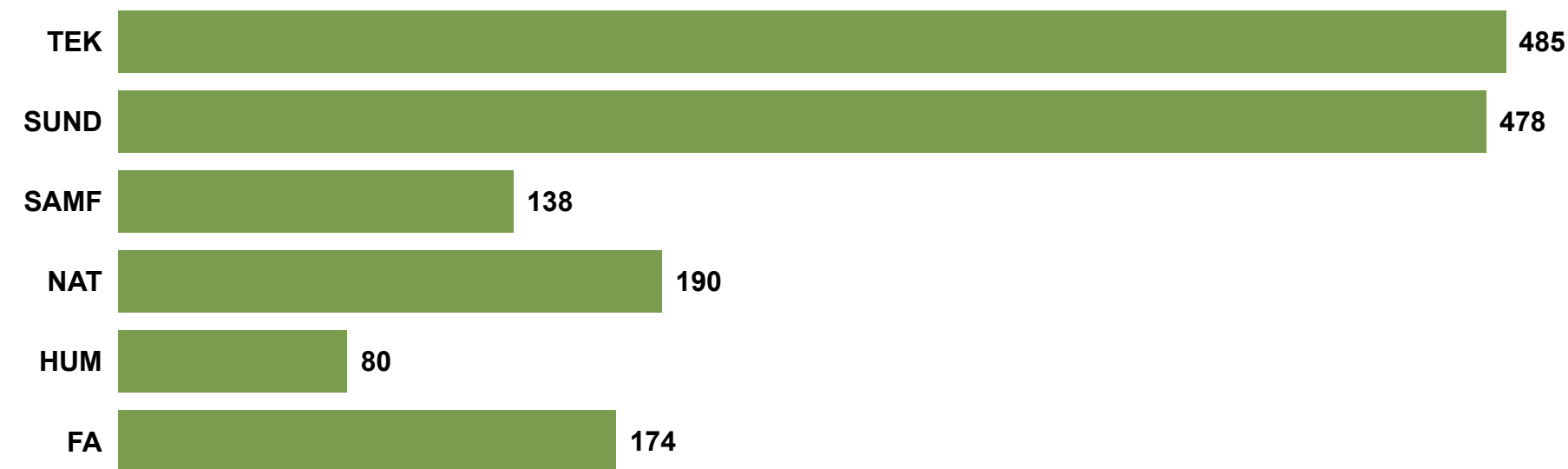
Number of cases continues to grow



Distribution of cases by type



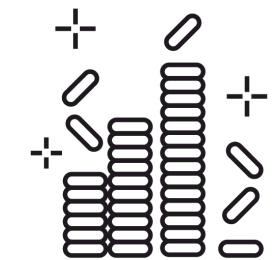
Collaboration agreements by faculty



The financial value of SDU collaboration agreements

The total value of collaboration agreements involving SDU amounts to

DKK 4 billion of which SDU's share is
DKK 709 million.





Education

- **Through education-oriented activities**, RIO is increasingly facilitating collaboration between students, lecturers and external organisations. This is done through practice in teaching, subject-based workshops and facilitated teaching, focusing on employment and creating value as a graduate. RIO also helps SDU's lecturers incorporate practice into course descriptions.
- **RIO's programme-related activities** are closely coordinated and agreed upon with the academic environments through action plans at all campuses, so that together and through practical involvement, we enhance the students' understanding of relevance and value creation after graduation.
- **The broad career activities** in SDU Student Job & Career will promote contact between students and private/public organisations. This includes networking activities, help with student jobs and project collaboration, application tools and career fairs. Activities are carried out in close collaboration with external partners and include offers specifically targeted at international students.

Practice involvement strengthens the students' understanding of relevance

- Many activities in the academic environments with practical involvement.
- Close collaboration with businesses/organisations contributes to value-creating graduates.
- SDU's lecturers have received competence development regarding practice involvement.

Note: Data are counted in new ways, therefore no historical retrospective.

Education-oriented activities



135 activities in academic environments,

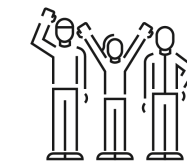
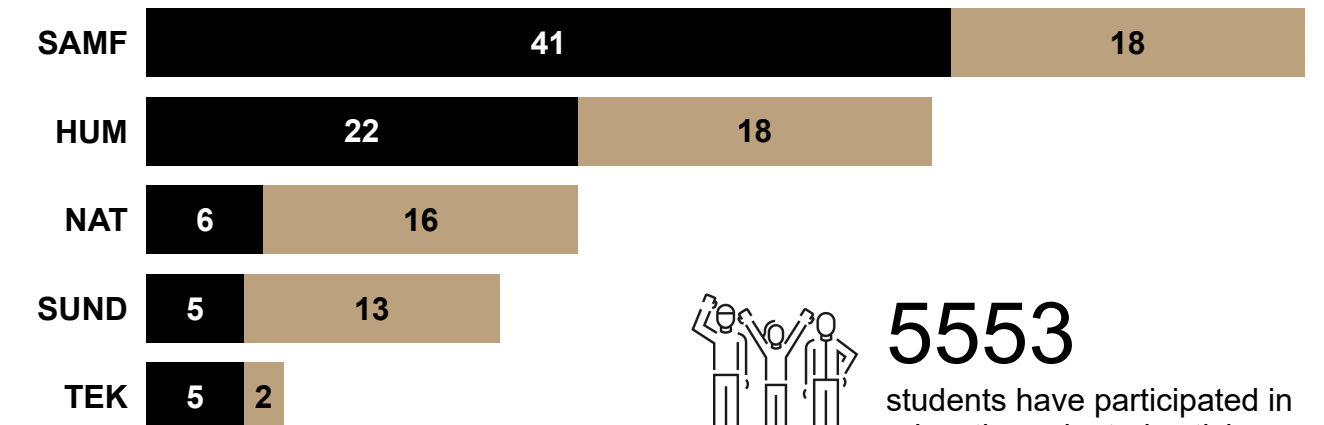


63 of these activities involved practice, in which



101 unique businesses participated

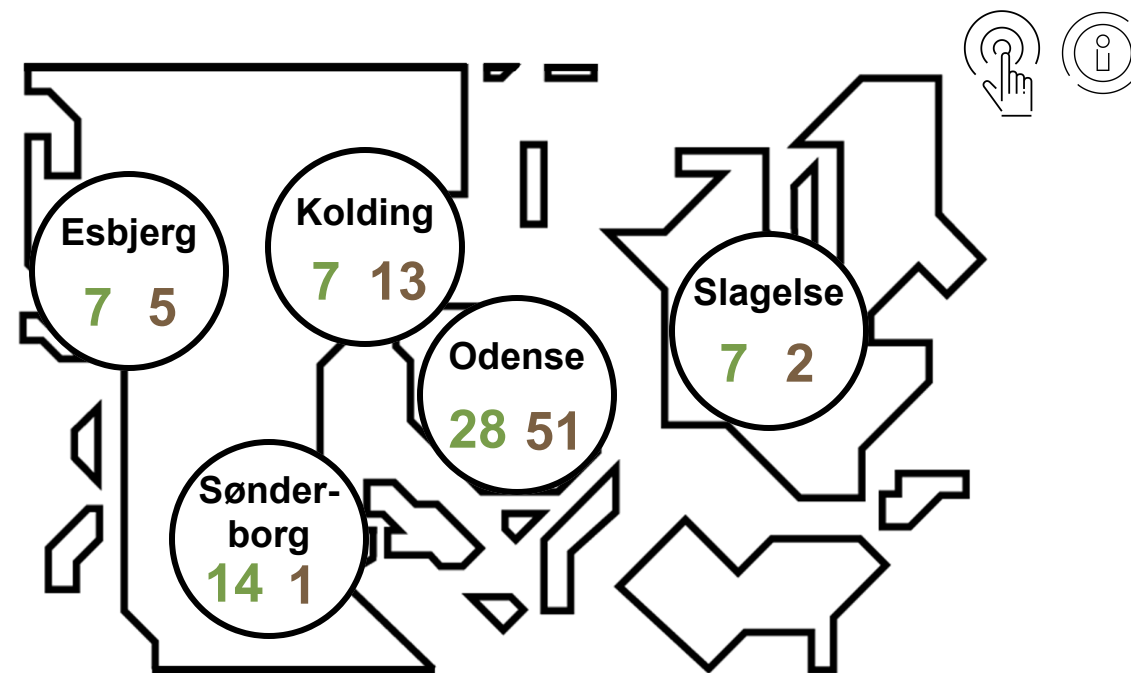
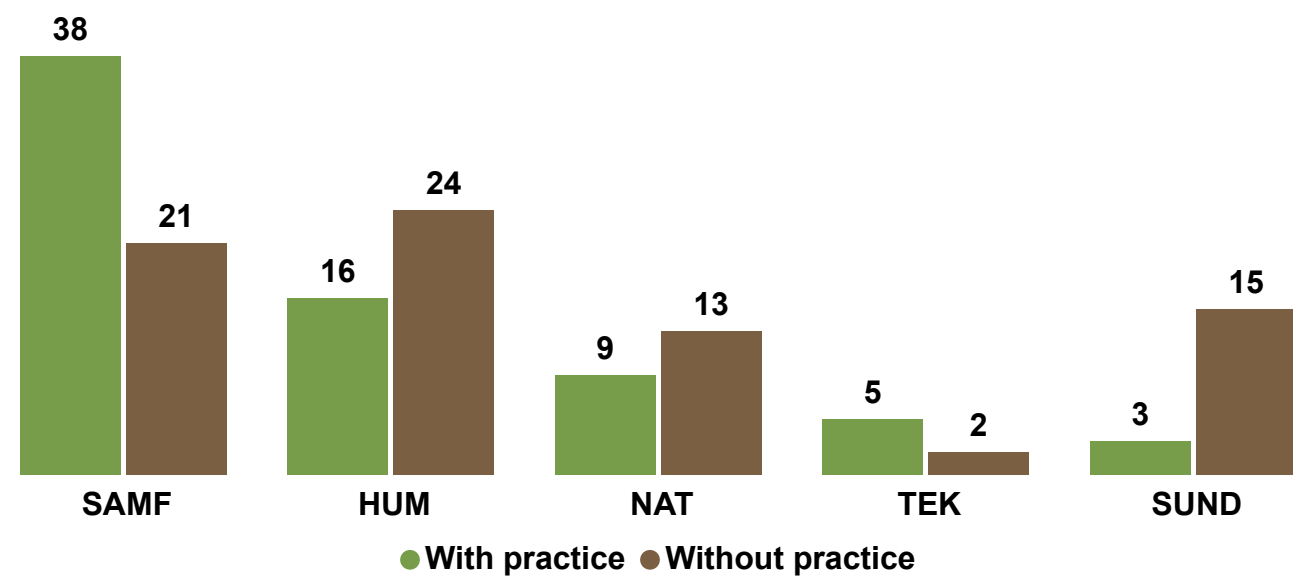
Curricular and extracurricular activities by faculty



5553 students have participated in education-oriented activities

● Curricular ● Extracurricular

Number of activities in the academic environments with/without practice, distributed by faculty and campus



Contribution to programme-initiatives



4 contributions to new programmes and revision of course descriptions



3 competence development courses for VIP with



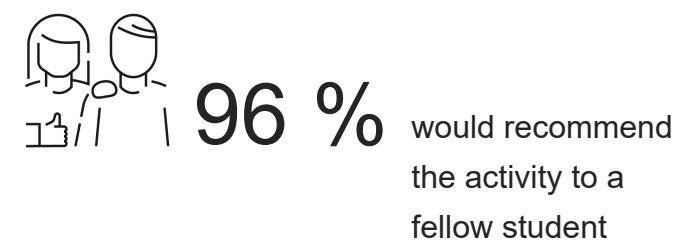
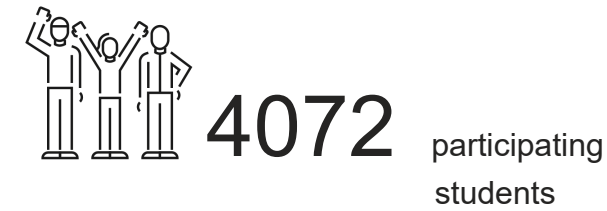
41 participants

Students meet businesses and organisations

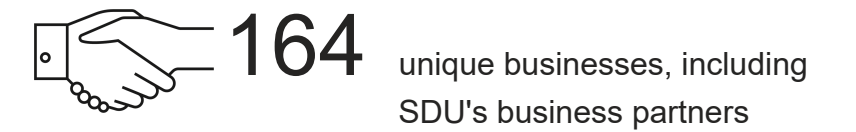
- Connections are also made through the broad career activities offered by SDU Student Job and Career.
- SDU's business partners are involved in both education-oriented and broad career activities.
- Many of the activities are targeted at international students.

Note: Data are counted in new ways, therefore no historical retrospective.

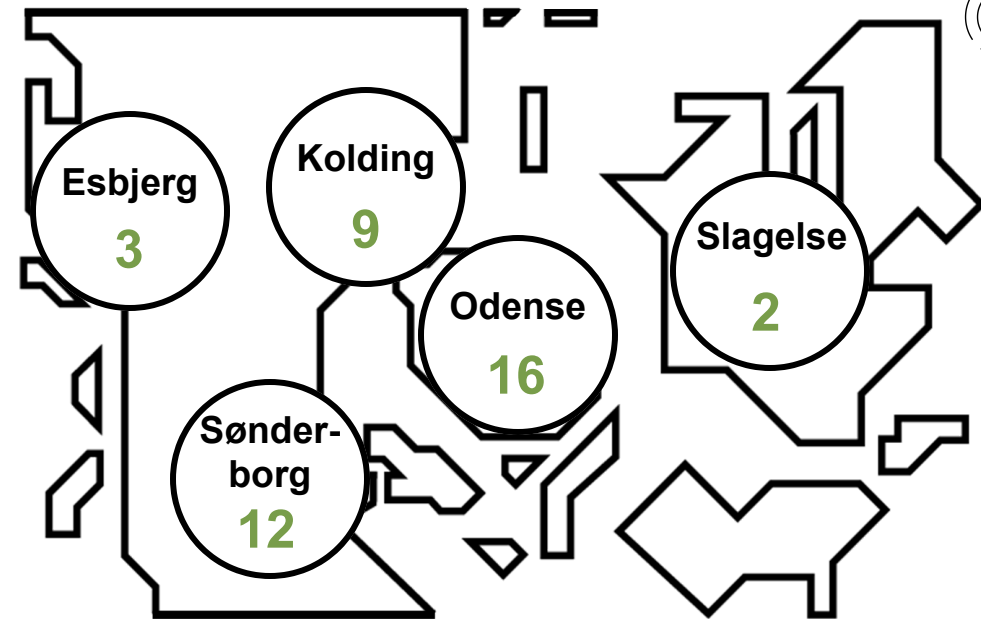
Career activities that link studies and employment



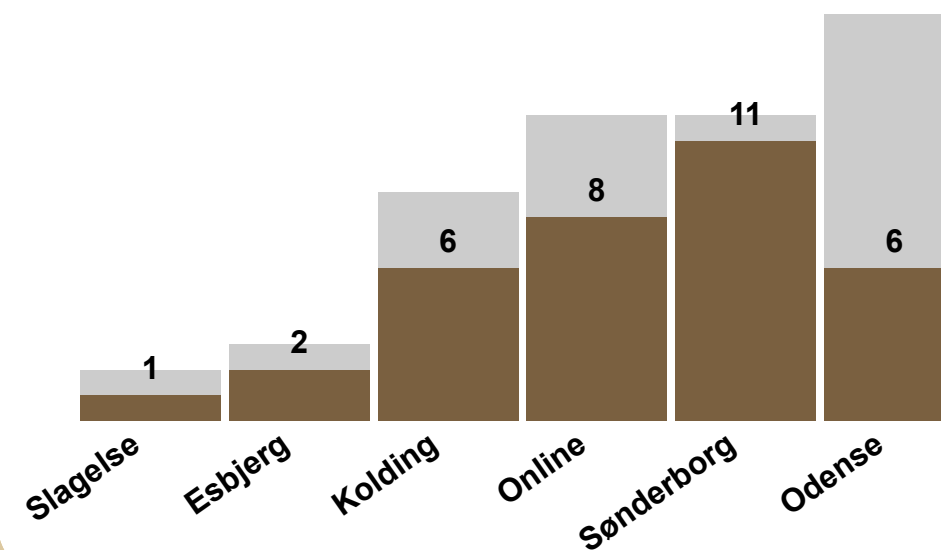
Businesses involved in the activities



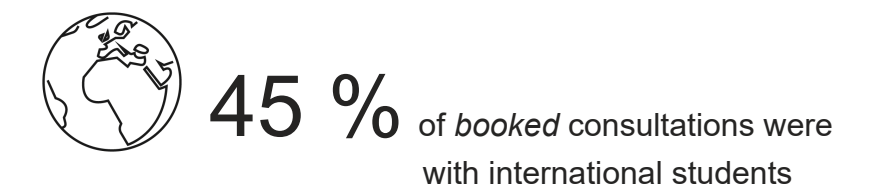
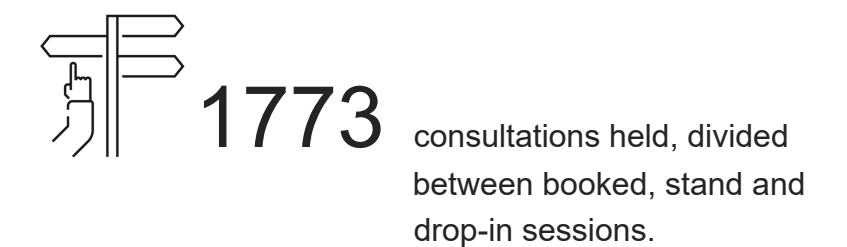
Career activities per campus



Career activities targeted international students per campus



Career counselling - also for international students



Innovation

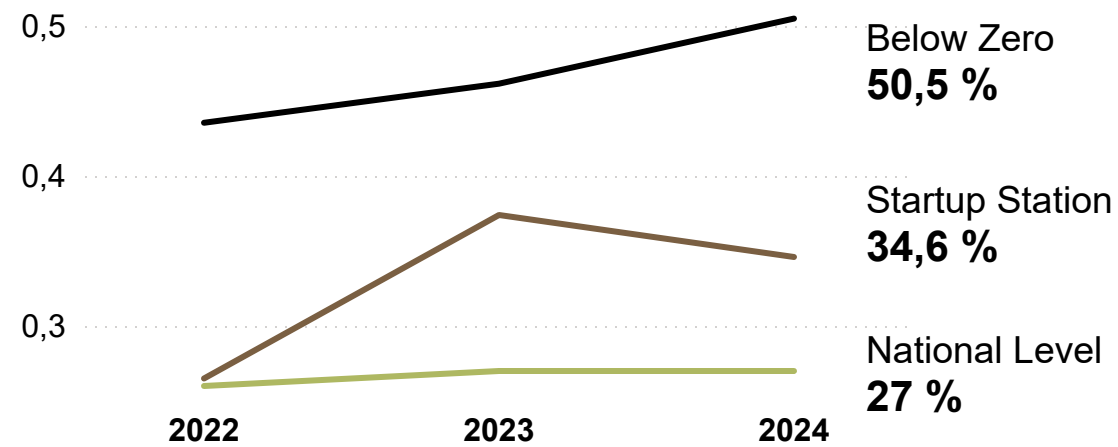


- **The National Entrepreneurship Strategy** has been a great success at SDU. It reinforces the great efforts at the faculties and in RIO and supports the production of new knowledge and technology for the development of new businesses and solutions.
- **New approach to research-based innovation:** Last year, SDU and RIO adopted a new and broader approach with shifts in focus, allocation of new funds and a more diverse portfolio for the benefit of more researchers at SDU.
- **Innovation at SDU is diverse:** Among other things, RIO contributes to the IP-based spin-outs, interaction with investors and the ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship as well as innovation collaborations on e.g. regional development. Also, Science Ventures, SDU's subsidiary, supports and founds spin-outs that originate from the research environments and create growth.
- **More student entrepreneurship for more people:** An increasing number of students are starting their own businesses while studying at SDU. Several of them have won awards. SDU has also succeeded in attracting more female entrepreneurs than the national average. Students who are part of SDU Startup Station are in a strong position upon graduating, either by running their own company or by having intrapreneurial skills on their CV.

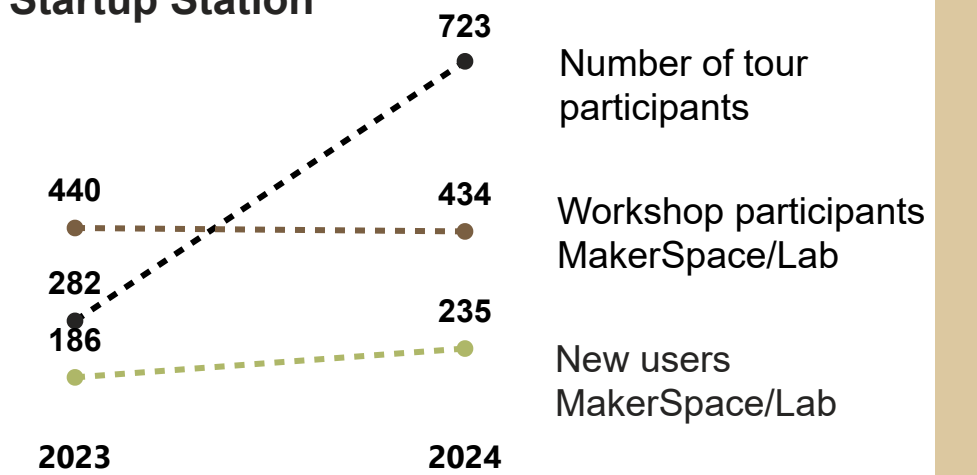
Growing interest in student entrepreneurship at SDU Startup Station

- More new users in the Maker workshops in Odense and Kolding.
- Significant increase in the number of tour participants at Startup Station's Open Days.
- The impressive increase in the number of startups and individuals/students appears less clearly in the overall total due to declined level of activity in Slagelse.

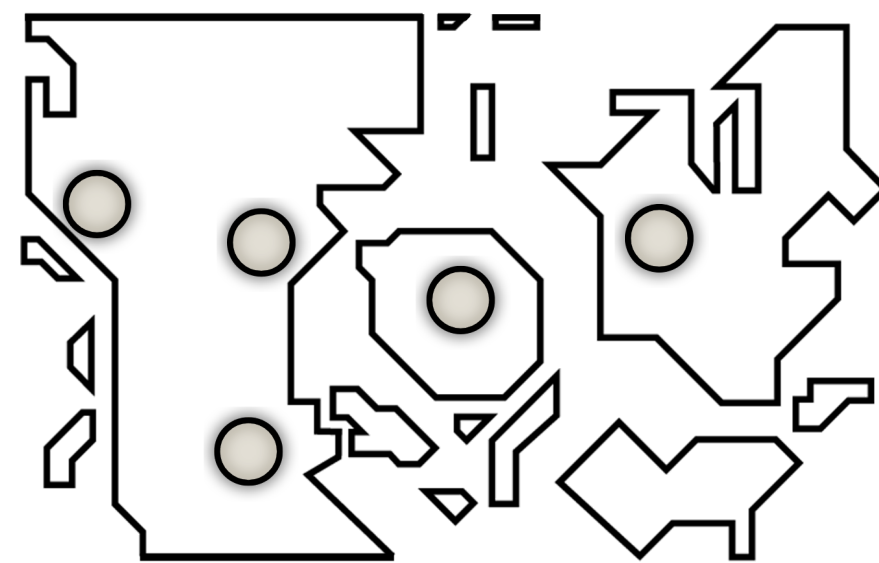
The number of female entrepreneurs is high



Strong interest in the offerings at Startup Station

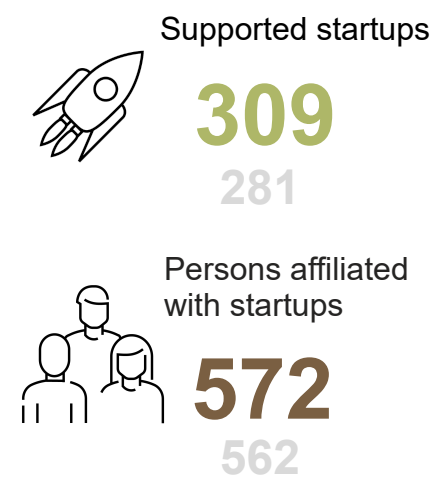


Number of supported startups and affiliated persons per campus city

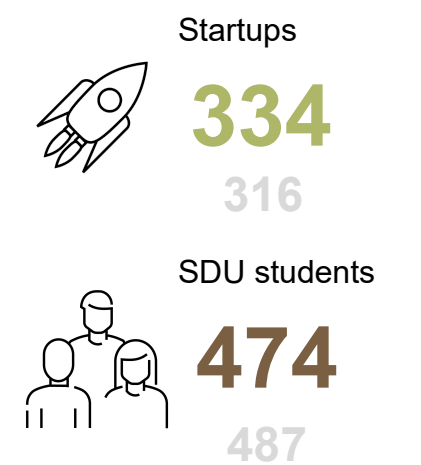
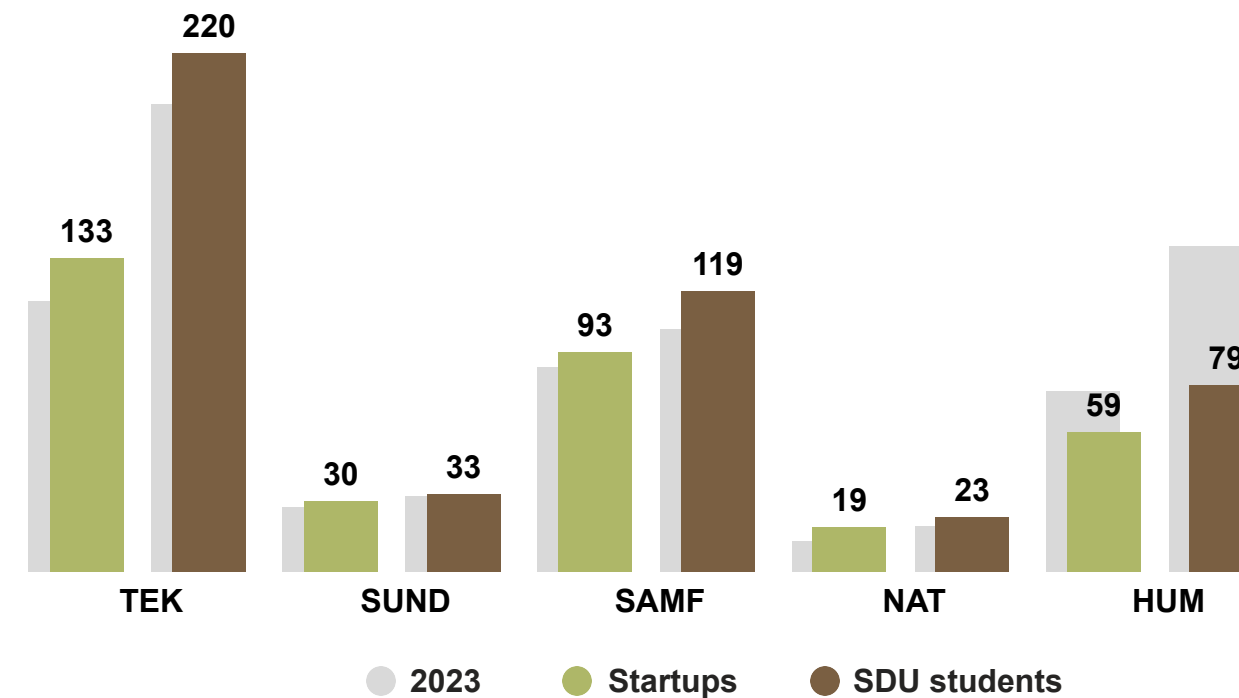


● 2023 ● Startups ● Persons

Total across all cities



Supported startups and affiliated SDU students per faculty

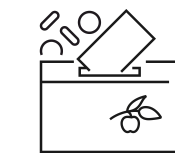
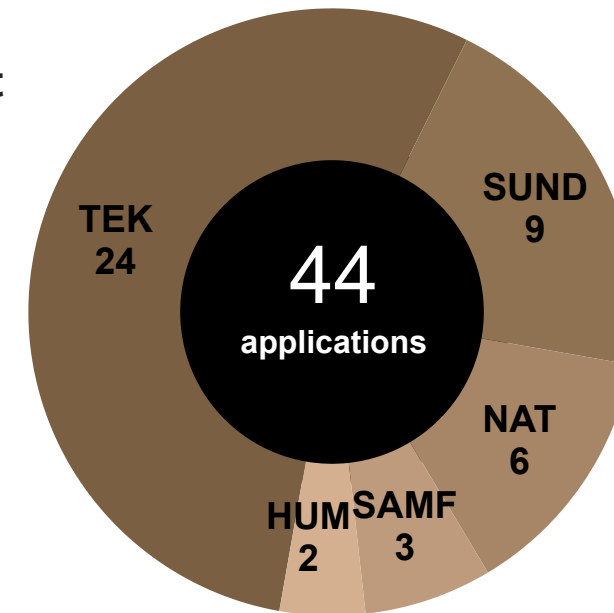


From reports of new inventions to innovation proposals

- Discovery Grant: The first of its kind at SDU. Supports ideas in the early stages.
- Continued increase in new inventions.
- The substantial influx of soft funding from last year continues.

Note: As data are being counted in new ways due to the new broad approach to innovation proposals rather than just reports, a historical retrospective is not possible.

Discovery Grant: SDU's latest grant initiative

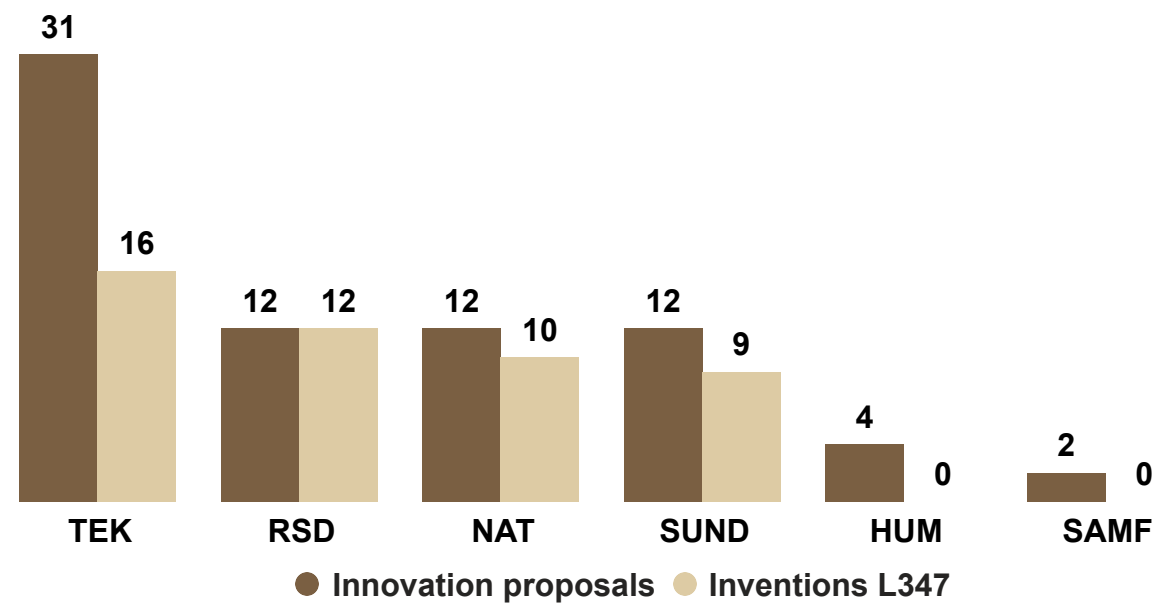


10 grants awarded, at



75,000 DKK per grant

Innovation proposals and inventions per faculty

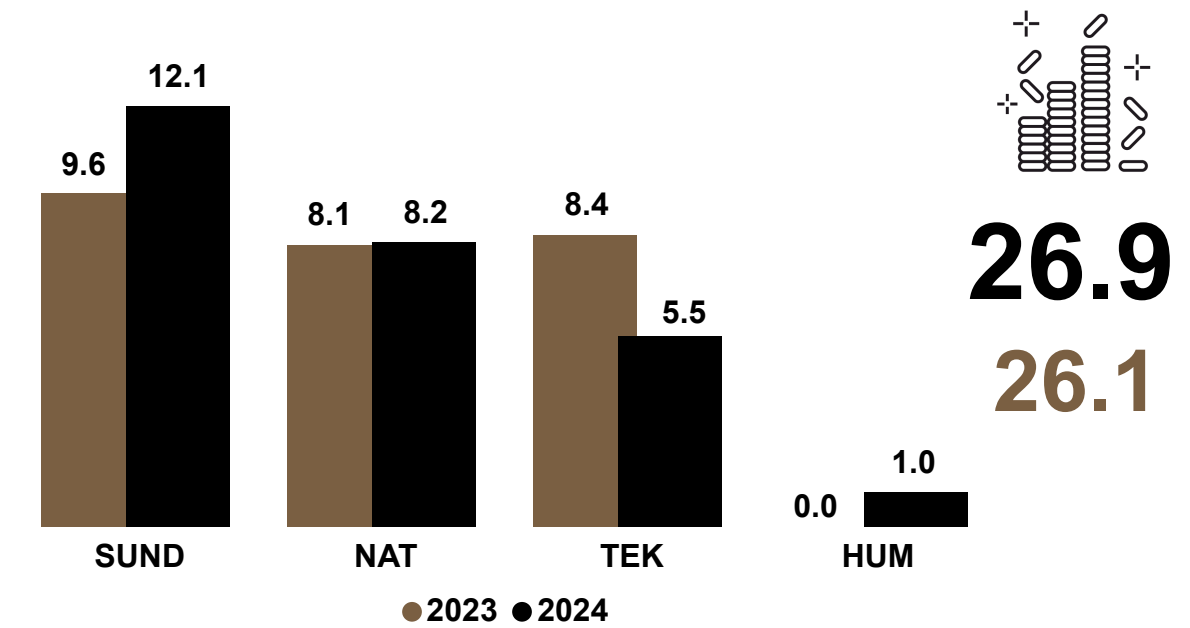


Innovation proposals* **64**

of which inventions **38**

*Innovation proposals include software, inventions, funding, and know-how materials.

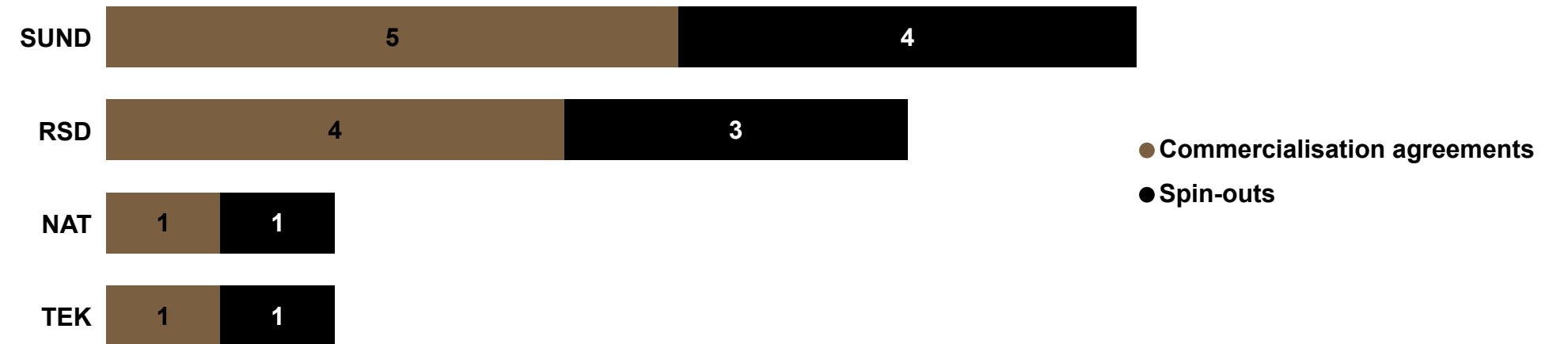
Soft funding per faculty (in millions of DKK)



SDU's innovative force covers a wide range

- Record number of new spin-outs. The highest in 15 years for a single calendar year.
- Spin-outs in Science Ventures generate new jobs and growth every year.
- SDU's innovative force encompasses far more than the statutory statements show.

Number of commercialisation agreements and spin-outs



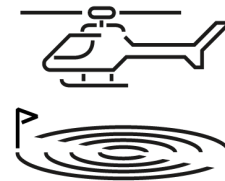
New spin-outs established in 2024

Company

- Inverna Therapeutics ApS (biotech)
- Praemostro ApS (medtech)
- Indsigt.ai ApS (medtech)
- Cellcap Solutions ApS (medtech)
- HjertePsykologerne ApS (healthtech)
- Normark Structural Health Monitoring Holding ApS (defence)
- CoDrone ApS (drone)
- Meditek Danmark ApS* (medtech)

Institute/department

- Biokemi og Molekylær Biologi
- Regional Sundhedsforskning, Fælles Akut Modtagelse
- Klinisk, afdelingen Blodprøver og Biokemi
- Molekylær Medicin
- Psykologi
- Mads Clausen
- Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller
- Centre for Clinical Robotics



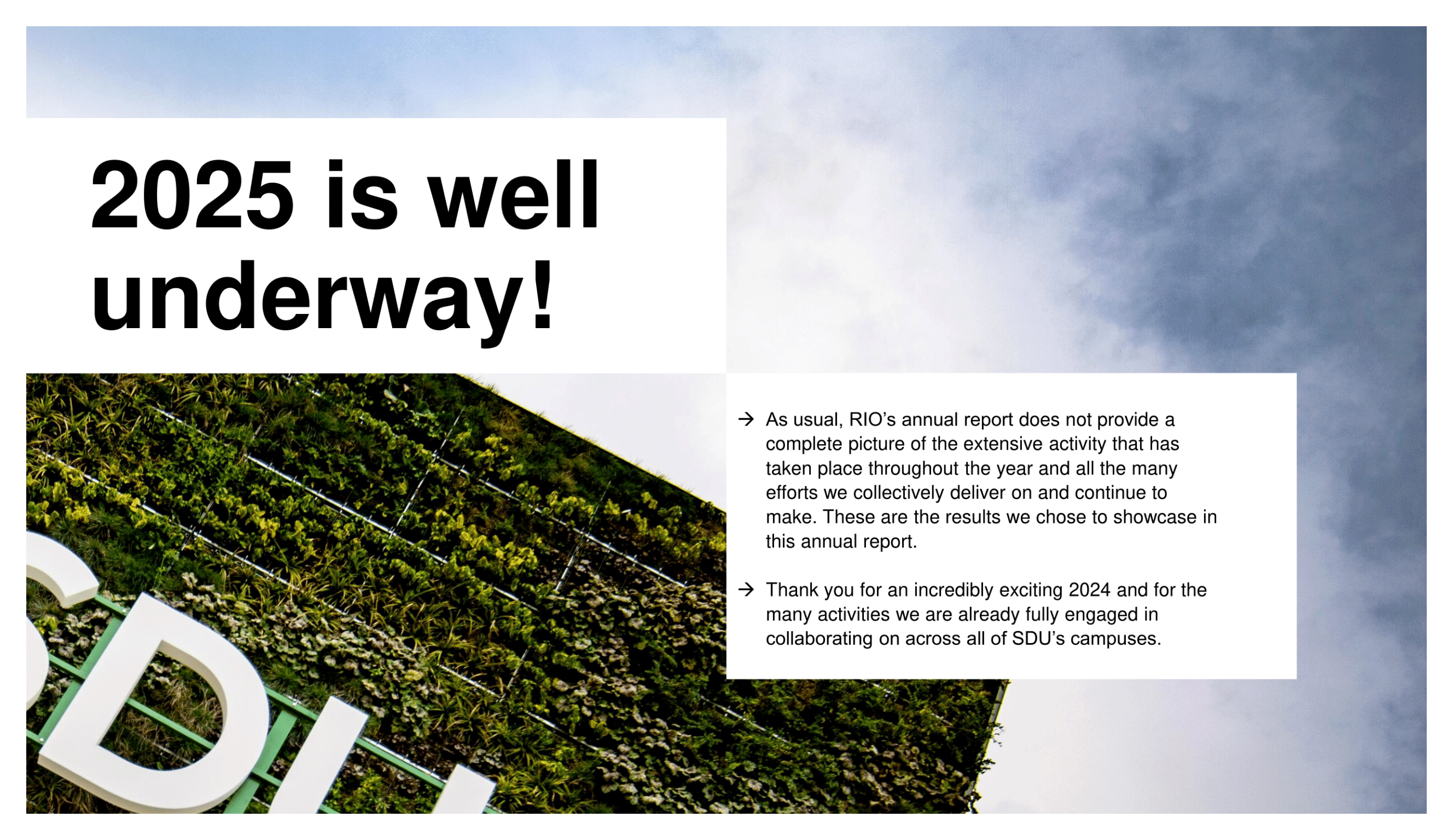
Science Ventures: Spin-outs from SDU contribute with



25 active small businesses with almost
200 jobs, which generated investments of
550 mio. DKK from private investors and raised
170 mio. DKK in soft funding, which, among other things, funds collaborations with SDU's researchers

View the portfolio: scienceventures.dk/spin-outs

2025 is well underway!

- 
- As usual, RIO's annual report does not provide a complete picture of the extensive activity that has taken place throughout the year and all the many efforts we collectively deliver on and continue to make. These are the results we chose to showcase in this annual report.
 - Thank you for an incredibly exciting 2024 and for the many activities we are already fully engaged in collaborating on across all of SDU's campuses.